

White-Nose Syndrome

- ❖ WNS is caused by *Geomyces destructans*, a cold-adapted fungus that invades the skin of hibernating bats
- ❖ Bats with WNS arouse from hibernation more frequently than healthy bats, depleting their fat stores early
- ❖ Bats with WNS die from dehydration, starvation, or exposure to cold temperatures



Bat with suspected white-nose syndrome in Fayette County, Pa

Useful White-nose Syndrome links:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife WNS page
<http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome>

Bat Conservation International WNS page
<http://www.batcon.org/index.php/what-we-do/white-nose-syndrome.html>



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Photos courtesy of: Ryan von Linden/New York Department of Environmental Conservation (Front cover), Greg Turner/Pennsylvania Game Commission (2nd page), and Wil Orndorff/Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (3rd page)

White-Nose Syndrome & Wyoming Bats

What you can do
to keep our bats safe



Wyoming Game & Fish Department

Wyoming's Bats

- ❖ Wyoming is home to 18 species of bats
- ❖ Wyoming bats are important insect predators capable of eating their body weight in insects each night



- ❖ Bats have good eyesight but use echolocation to sense their surroundings in the dark



- ❖ Wyoming bats reproduce only once per year and can live up to 20-30 years
- ❖ Female bats give birth to only 1 or 2 pups per litter

How is WNS spread?

- ❖ Bat-to-Bat: Bats that are susceptible to WNS are colonial and can transfer the fungus to each other
- ❖ Human-to-Cave: Humans visiting healthy caves with infected clothing can transfer the fungus
- ❖ Cave-to-Bat: Healthy bats can be exposed to infected cave substrates



Likely WNS symptoms at Breathing Cave, Bath County, Virginia, late February 2009



How can YOU help?

- ❖ **BE AWARE** of cave closures on public land
- ❖ **AVOID** entry into caves or abandoned mines used by bats
- ❖ **DECONTAMINATE** clothing, footwear, and gear before entering caves or mines
- ❖ **DO NOT DISTURB** hibernating bats
- ❖ **REPORT** bats with WNS symptoms, unusual behavior, or numerous bat fatalities to the Game & Fish Department (see back panel)